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Jury finds The New York Times did not libel former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin

By **LARRY NEUMEISTER**

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Times did not libel former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin in a 2017 editorial that contained an error she claimed had damaged her reputation, a jury concluded Tuesday.

The jury deliberated a little over two hours before reaching its verdict. A judge and a different jury had reached the same conclusion about Palin's defamation claims in 2022, but her lawsuit was revived by an appeals court.

Palin was subdued as she left the courthouse and made her way to a waiting car, telling reporters: "I get to go home to a beautiful family of five kids and grandkids and a beautiful property and get on with life."

And that's nice."

Later, she posted on the social platform X that she planned to "keep asking the press to quit making things up."



Former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin leaves Manhattan federal court, Tuesday, April 22, 2025, in New York. A jury has concluded The New York Times did not libel Palin for an error in a 2017 editorial she says damaged her reputation.

Associated Press

Danielle Rhoades Ha, a Times spokesperson, said in a statement that the verdict "reaffirms an important tenet of American law: publishers are not liable for honest mistakes."

Palin, who earned a journalism degree in college,

sued the Times for unspecified damages in 2017, about a decade after she burst onto the national stage as the Republican vice-presidential nominee. Her lawsuit stemmed from an editorial about gun control published after U.S. Rep.

Steve Scalise, a Louisiana Republican, was wounded in 2017 when a man with a history of anti-GOP activity opened fire on a Congressional baseball team practice in Washington.

In the editorial, the Times wrote that before the 2011

mass shooting in Arizona that severely wounded former U.S. Rep. Gabby Giffords and killed six others, Palin's political action committee had contributed to an atmosphere of violence by circulating a map of electoral districts that put Giffords and 19 other Democrats under stylized crosshairs.

The Times corrected the article less than 14 hours after it was published, saying it had "incorrectly stated that a link existed between political rhetoric and the 2011 shooting" and that it had "incorrectly described" the map.

During the trial, former Times editorial page editor James Bennet tearfully apologized to Palin, saying he was tormented by the error and worked urgently to correct it after readers complained to the newspaper. Palin testified Monday that death threats against her increased and her spirits fell after the editorial was published. □

Supreme Court signals support for Maryland parents who object to LGBTQ books in public schools

By **MARK SHERMAN**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court's conservative majority on Tuesday signaled support for the religious rights of parents in Maryland who want to remove their children from elementary school classes using storybooks with LGBTQ characters.

The court seemed likely to find that the Montgomery County school system, in suburban Washington, could not require elementary school children to sit through lessons involving the books if parents expressed religious objections to the material.

The case is the latest dispute involving religion to come before the court. The justices have repeatedly endorsed claims of religious discrimination in recent years.

"I'm surprised this is the hill

to die on in terms of not respecting religious liberty," Justice Brett Kavanaugh said, citing the county's diverse population and Maryland's history as a haven for Catholics.

The county school board introduced the storybooks as part of an effort to bet-

ter reflect the district's diversity.

Parents sued after the school system stopped allowing them to pull their kids from lessons that included the books. The parents argue that public schools cannot force kids to participate in instruc-

tion that violates their faith, and they pointed to the opt-out provisions in sex education classes.

The schools said allowing children to opt out of the lessons had become disruptive. Lower courts backed the schools, prompting the parents' appeal to the Supreme Court.

Five books are at issue in the high court case, touching on the same themes found in classic stories that include Snow White, Cinderella and Peter Pan, the school system's lawyers wrote.

In "Prince and Knight," two men fall in love after they rescue the kingdom, and each other. In "Uncle Bobby's Wedding," a niece worries that her uncle will not have as much time for her after he gets married. His partner is a man.

"Love, Violet" deals with a

girl's anxiety about giving a valentine to another girl. "Born Ready" is the story of a transgender boy's decision to share his gender identity with his family and the world. "Intersection Allies" describes nine characters of varying backgrounds, including one who is gender-fluid.

Billy Moges, a board member of the Kids First parents' group that sued over the books, said the content is sexual, confusing and inappropriate for young schoolchildren.

The writers' group Pen America said in a court filing what the parents want is "a constitutionally suspect book ban by another name." Pen America reported more than 10,000 books were banned in the last school year.

A decision in *Mahmoud v. Taylor* is expected by early summer. □



A selection of books featuring LGBTQ characters that are part of a Supreme Court case are pictured, Tuesday, April, 15, 2025, in Washington.

Associated Press

Rubio unveils a massive overhaul of the State Department, with a reduction of staff and bureaus

By FARNOUSH AMIRI and MATTHEW LEE

Associated Press

Secretary of State Marco Rubio unveiled a massive overhaul of the State Department on Tuesday, with plans to reduce staff in the U.S. by 15% while closing and consolidating more than 100 bureaus worldwide as part of the Trump administration's "America First" mandate.

The reorganization plan, announced by Rubio on social media and detailed in documents obtained by The Associated Press, is the latest effort by the White House to reimagine U.S. foreign policy and scale back the size of the federal government. The restructuring was driven in part by the need to find a new home for the remaining functions of the U.S. Agency for International Development, an agency that Trump administration officials and billionaire ally Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency have dismantled.

"We cannot win the battle for the 21st century with bloated bureaucracy that stifles innovation and misallocates scarce resources," Rubio said in a department-wide email obtained by AP. He said the reorganization aimed to "meet the immense challenges of the 21st Century and put America First."

State Department spokeswoman Tammy Bruce echoed that sentiment, saying the "sweeping changes will empower our talented diplomats" but adding that it would not result in the immediate dismissal of personnel. "It's not something where people are being fired today," Bruce told reporters Tuesday. "They're not going to be walking out of the building. It's not that kind of a dynamic. It is a roadmap. It's a plan."

The plan includes consolidating 734 bureaus and offices down to 602, as well as transitioning 137 offices to another location within the department to



U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio looks on upon his arrival at the Quai d'Orsay, France's Minister of Foreign Affairs before a bilateral meeting with his French counterpart Jean-Noel Barrot in Paris Thursday, April 17, 2025.

Associated Press

clude the Office of Global Women's Issues and the State Department's diversity and inclusion efforts, which have been eliminated government-wide under Trump. An office charged with surging expertise to war zones and other erupting crises will be eliminated, while other bureaus focused on human rights and justice will be scaled back or folded into other sections of the department. Daryl Grisgraber, a policy lead with humanitarian organization Oxfam America, said this development only creates more "uncertainty" about the U.S.'s ability to contribute to the ongoing humanitarian conflicts. □

"increase efficiency," according to a fact sheet obtained by AP. There will be a "reimagined" office focused on foreign and humanitarian affairs to coordinate the aid programs overseas remaining at the department.

Although the plan will implement major changes in the department's bureaucracy and personnel, it is far less drastic than an alleged reorganization plan that was circulated by some officials over the weekend. Numerous senior State Department officials, including Rubio himself, denied that the plan was real.

Work that had been believed targeted in that alleged leaked document survived at least as bureau names on a chart in the plan that Rubio released Tuesday. That includes offices for Africa affairs, migration and refugee issues, and democracy efforts. It was not immediately clear whether U.S. embassies were included in the installations slated for closing. Earlier reports of wholesale closings of embassies, especially in Africa, triggered warnings about shrinking the U.S. diplomatic capacity and influence abroad. Some of the bureaus that are indeed expected to be cut in the new plan in-

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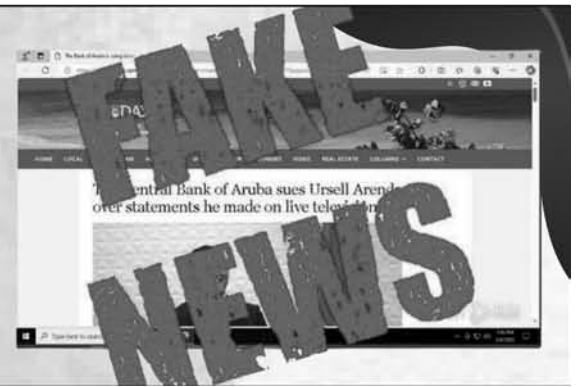
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The Texas Lottery's top executive resigns as scrutiny over big jackpot winners intensifies

By JIM VERTUNO
Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The executive director of the Texas Lottery Commission has resigned, the latest shake-up at the state's retail gambling enterprise amid multiple investigations into jackpots in 2023 and earlier this year totaling nearly \$200 million, and calls from some lawmakers to shut it down.

The lottery announced Ryan Mindell's resignation on Monday without comment. A former deputy director and operations director at the lottery, Mindell had held the top job for only about a year following the abrupt resignation of his predecessor.

He leaves as the agency faces at least two investigations ordered by Gov. Greg Abbott and state Attorney General Ken Paxton into the integrity of the lottery prizes, and how the state handled the introduction of courier companies that buy and send tickets on behalf of customers online. The companies and lottery officials have denied wrongdoing. But Texas state lawmakers are considering forcing several changes, ranging from a legal ban on sales through courier companies to shutting down the agency by taking away all of its funding.

The jackpots

The Texas lottery was established in 1991 and sends a portion of its annual revenue to public education. In 2024, that meant about \$2 billion sent to the state's public school fund.

But two of the biggest jackpots in agency history prompted flares of scrutiny and criticism from media, lawmakers and state officials who question whether



A Texas Lottery sales terminal shows the jackpot amounts up to win at Fuel City in Dallas, Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2025.

they were fairly won and if courier companies should be allowed.

First, a \$95 million jackpot in 2023 was awarded when the winners bought nearly every possible number combination more than 25 million of them. In February, an \$83 million ticket was won with a ticket purchased at a courier store. The chain that operates the store has locations in six states.

The reaction

A Houston Chronicle investigation initially detailed the buying efforts behind the 2023 jackpot, but it was the second one that finally grabbed the attention of prominent state lawmakers, as well as the governor and the state attorney general. An agency that typically garners little attention beyond the millions it awards in jackpots and scratch-off ticket games was suddenly under fire.

Abbott ordered the state's elite Texas Rangers law enforcement agency to open

an investigation, and Paxton announced a probe by the state attorney general's office. Those remain ongoing.

"The governor expects the Texas Lottery Commission to work within the bounds of the law and to ensure the trust and integrity of the lottery regardless of who leads the agency," Abbott spokesman Andrew Mahaleris said Tuesday.

A Texas lottery spokesman declined further comment on Mindell's resignation.

The Legislature, meanwhile, has held public hearings to scold lottery officials for allowing the use of courier companies to bypass state law that requires tickets to be purchased in person. Mindell had told state lawmakers in February that the agency had previously determined it did not have the authority to regulate courier companies, but said the agency would now move to ban them.

The Coalition of Texas Lottery Couriers accused Min-

dell of pushing the agency to "inaccurately and unfairly" allow the courier companies to "become the scapegoat for its own questionable activities." The group insisted its members played no role in the 2023 jackpot scheme.

"Mindell's departure provides an opportunity to reconsider the agency's politically motivated decisions regarding lottery couriers and restart good faith collaboration between our companies and the TLC," the coalition said in a statement.

What comes next

State lawmakers are approaching the final month

of their biennial session and have threatened action ranging from writing a courier ban into state law, or even more drastic measures such as shutting down the lottery altogether.

The state Senate has already passed a ban on courier sales, but the measure has yet to get a vote in the House. The House and Senate will soon negotiate a final version of the two-year state budget. The House version currently includes no money for the agency, which would effectively close it down.

But that effort is likely more of a message that lawmakers are serious about making changes than seriously thinking of closing down an agency that generates billions in sales and for public schools annually.

Texas hold'em

State law allows Texas jackpots to be claimed anonymously, and the April 2023 jackpot was collected two months later in the form of a one-time payment of \$57.8 million to a company called Rook TX.

The payment for the February jackpot, however, is on hold pending the state investigations.

An attorney for a woman who claims to hold the winning ticket has said it was legally purchased among a group of 10 she bought through the courier Jacket pocket. □



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70% of Jewish Holocaust survivors will be gone in the next 10 years, a report shows

By KIRSTEN GRIESHABER

Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Eighty years after the Holocaust, more than 200,000 Jewish survivors are still alive but 70% of them will be gone within the next 10 years meaning time is running out to hear the voices of the last generation who suffered through one of the worst atrocities in history.

Currently, the survivors' median age is 87, and more than 1,400 of them are over 100 years old, a new report said Tuesday.

"We have known that this population of survivors would be the last, our final opportunity to hear their first-hand testimonies, to spend time with them, our last chance to meet a survivor," said Greg Schneider, the executive vice president of the New York-based Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, also referred to as the Claims Conference, which published the study. The report's analysis of population projections and mortality rates provides details through 2040. It is based on the extensive data collected since 1952 by the Claims Conference, which includes survivors who receive direct payments or social welfare services funded by the or-



Holocaust survivors attend a ceremony at the Auschwitz-Birkenau Nazi death camp in Oswiecim, Poland, Jan. 27, 2020.

ganization as a result of ongoing negotiations with Germany.

90% of Holocaust survivors will pass away in the next 15 years

Notably, nearly 50% of all Holocaust survivors will pass away within the next six years, while 70% will die within 10 years and 90% within 15 years, according to the report titled "Vanishing Witnesses."

Those still alive are often of frail health and suffer from ailments that come with

age and have been amplified by traumas in their youth.

Six million European Jews were murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators during the Holocaust.

It is not clear exactly how many Jews survived the death camps, the ghettos or somewhere in hiding across Nazi-occupied Europe, but their numbers were a far cry from the pre-war Jewish population in Europe.

In Poland, of the 3.3 million

Jews living there in 1939, only about 300,000 survived.

Around 560,000 Jews lived in Germany in 1933, the year Adolf Hitler came to power. After the Holocaust, their numbers had diminished to about 15,000 through emigration and extermination.

After the end of World War II, survivors settled all over the globe and even today they are still living in 90 different countries.

Mortality rates vary across

locations

The "Vanishing Witnesses" report shows that mortality rates for survivors vary greatly across locations depending on access to health care and economic stability.

For example, Israel, which is home to about half of all Holocaust survivors, had 110,100 survivors as of October 2024 and is estimated to see their population decline to 62,900 by 2030, a drop of 43%.

The United States had 34,600 in the fall of 2024, but is projected to lose 39% over that same time, dropping to 21,100 survivors. Countries in the former Soviet Union had 25,500 survivors in October 2024, but are expected to be at 11,800 in five years, down 54 % by the start of 2030.

"This report is a stark reminder that our time is almost up, our survivors are leaving us and this is the moment to hear their voices," said Gideon Taylor, the president of the Claims Conference.

Many survivors worry who will keep alive their memories Albrecht Weinberg, a 100-year-old survivor from Germany who lost almost his entire family in the Holocaust, said that even today the horrendous memories are haunting him. □

Associated Press

Former Thai prosecutors sentenced to prison for alleged cover-up of Red Bull heir's deadly crash

By JINTAMAS SAKSORNCHAI

Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — A Thai court convicted and sentenced on Tuesday two former prosecutors in connection with an alleged cover-up of a 2012 Ferrari crash involving an heir to the Red Bull energy drink fortune that killed a police officer.

Former Deputy Attorney General Nate Naksuk and former prosecutor Chain-arong Sangthongaram were sentenced to three and two years, respectively, for abuse of power to help an individual avoid prosecution, said the Central Criminal Court for Corruption and Misconduct Cases in Bangkok.

They were among eight people charged with conspiring to alter the recorded speed of the Ferrari driven by Vorayuth "Boss" Yoovidhya to help him evade a

speeding charge. The rest, including former Police Chief Gen. Somyot Poompanmoung, were acquitted due to a lack of evidence linking them to the cover-up, the court said on Tuesday.

However, the court ordered all eight to be detained pending an appeal, according to the court statement, which didn't provide further details. They were later released on bail, local media reported.

Vorayuth escaped justice by fleeing abroad in a case widely viewed as an example of how the rich and well-connected enjoy impunity in Thailand.

He is the grandson of the late Chaleo Yoovidhya, one of the creators of the globally famous Red Bull brand. Forbes magazine last year listed the Yoovidhya family as Thailand's richest with an estimated net worth of \$36 billion. □



Vorayuth "Boss" Yoovidhya, whose grandfather co-founded energy drink company Red Bull, walks to get in a car as he leaves a house in London, on April 5, 2017.

Associated Press

Indian police say gunmen kill at least 26 tourists at a resort in disputed Kashmir

By AIJAZ HUSSAIN

Associated Press

SRINAGAR, India (AP) —

Gunmen shot dead at least 26 tourists at a resort in Indian-controlled Kashmir, police said Tuesday, in what appeared to be a major shift in the regional conflict in which tourists have largely been spared.

Police described the incident as a "terror attack" and blamed militants fighting against Indian rule. "This attack is much larger than anything we've seen directed at civilians in recent years," Omar Abdullah, the region's top elected official, wrote on social media. Two senior police officers said at least four gunmen, whom they described as militants, fired at dozens of tourists from close range. The officers said at least three dozen others were injured, many in serious condition.

Most of the tourists killed were Indian, the officers said, speaking on condition of anonymity in keeping with departmental policy. Officials collected at least 24 bodies in Baisaran meadow, some five kilometers (3 miles) from the disputed region's resort town of Pahalgam. Two others died while being taken for medical treatment.



Paramedic carries a wounded tourist on a stretcher at a hospital in Anantnag after assailants indiscriminately fired at tourists visiting Pahalgam, Indian controlled Kashmir, Tuesday, April 22, 2025.

Associated Press

There was no immediate claim of responsibility. Police and soldiers were searching for the attackers. "We will come down heavily on the perpetrators with the harshest consequences," India's home minister, Amit Shah, wrote on social media. He arrived in Srinagar, the main city in Indian-controlled Kashmir, and convened a meeting with top security officials.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was cutting short his

two-day visit to Saudi Arabia and returning to New Delhi early Wednesday, the Press Trust of India news agency reported.

Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, a key resistance politician and Kashmir's top religious cleric, condemned what he described as a "cowardly attack on tourists," writing on social media that "such violence is unacceptable and against the ethos of Kashmir which welcomes visitors with love

and warmth."

The gunfire coincided with the visit to India of U.S. Vice President JD Vance, who called it a "devastating terrorist attack." He added on social media: "Over the past few days, we have been overcome with the beauty of this country and its people. Our thoughts and prayers are with them as they mourn this horrific attack."

U.S. President Donald Trump on social media not-

ed "deeply disturbing news out of Kashmir. The United States stands strong with India against terrorism." Other global leaders, including Russian President Vladimir Putin and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, condemned the attack.

Nuclear-armed rivals India and Pakistan each administer part of Kashmir, but both claim the territory in its entirety.

Kashmir has seen a spate of targeted killings of Hindus, including immigrant workers from Indian states, after New Delhi ended the region's semi-autonomy in 2019 and drastically curbed dissent, civil liberties and media freedoms.

Tensions have been simmering as India has intensified its counterinsurgency operations. But despite tourists flocking to Kashmir in huge numbers for its Himalayan foothills and exquisitely decorated houseboats, they have not been targeted.

The region has drawn millions of visitors who enjoy a strange peace kept by ubiquitous security checkpoints, armored vehicles and patrolling soldiers. New Delhi has vigorously pushed tourism and claimed it as a sign of normalcy returning. □

Costa Rica will give migrants deported from the U.S. permits to stay in the country for 3 months

By MEGAN JANETSKY

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) —

Costa Rica announced Tuesday it will allow some of the approximately 200 migrants deported from the United States and held in detention in the Central American country to stay and move about freely for three months.

The move comes just days after human rights lawyers sued Costa Rica, alleging the government violated the rights of 81 migrant children by detaining them in a rural camp without any legal recourse, access to education or psychological services.

There was no immediate word how many migrants who are mostly from Afghanistan, Russia, China,

Pakistan, India and other countries would be given the permits but the children are expected to be among

those allowed to stay.

The government said the permits would be given "for humanitarian reasons" and would last for three months while the migrants seek asylum in Costa Rica or look for ways to leave the country. The migrants were deported to Panama and Costa Rica this year as the Trump administration sought to ramp up deportations. What was once said to be a temporary stay in Central America stretched on for months, fueling criticisms by rights groups as many of the deportees expressed fear over returning to their own countries.

Critics warned the U.S. was

exporting its deportation process and that Panama and Costa Rica were becoming a "black hole" for deportees.

Migrants, whose passports were previously confiscated and who were detained in a former factory turned migrant camp along the Panama-Costa Rica border, were told they could have their passports returned upon signing a document accepting the government's conditions, said Silvia Serna Roman, one of the attorneys that filed the lawsuit at the United Nations.

"It's a step in the right direction," the lawyer said. □



A bus carrying migrants from Central Asia and India, deported from the United States, arrives at the Juan Santamaría International Airport in San Jose, Costa Rica, Feb. 20, 2025.

Associated Press



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ACF and Ban Lanta y Planta give back to nature on Earth Day!

(Oranjestad)—The Aruba Conservation Foundation (ACF), an independent conservation management organization, and Ban Lanta y Planta (BlyP), an organization dedicated to planting native trees to restore Aruba's ecosystem, joined forces to contribute to the improvement of Aruba's nature in celebration of Earth Day. As part of this collaboration, employees and volunteers from ACF and BlyP came together for a small activity to share knowledge and give back to Mother Earth by planting 28 mangrove trees grown by ACF and BlyP themselves.

This meaningful occasion began with the active participation of Prime Minister Mike Eman, together with the Director of the Directorate of Nature & Environment, Gisbert Boekhoudt. The team demonstrated the full process of germinating mangrove seedlings. Next, they will evaluate the survival of the plants in nature to continue improving the process of propagation and nurturing both types of trees in designated areas, and later replant them in nature. This is to begin restoring degraded areas of



native plant biodiversity.

What types of mangroves were planted and why?

A total of 28 mangrove trees were planted, consisting of two different species: *Avicennia germinans*, commonly known as Black Mangrove, and *Conocarpus erectus*, better known locally as Fofoti. The Black Mangrove typically grows on the edges of salt flats and near brackish water, but it prefers slightly drier habitats because it sometimes struggles to get oxygen when soil is clay-heavy or underwater. The solution is that it grows special aerial roots called pneumatophores, which allow the tree to breathe – like snorkels. You can recognize Black Mangroves by the salt residue found on the underside of their leaves.

The Fofoti is Aruba's iconic tree that tolerates high salinity but prefers to grow near the edges of salt flats or slightly higher and drier areas compared to the Black Mangrove.

Why these mangrove species?

ACF and Ban Lanta y Planta are experimenting with germination and optimal growth conditions for all mangrove species found in Aruba. The goal is to maximize the potential to plant more mangroves in the fu-

ture. They were fortunate to have suitable weather conditions, and the young mangroves were ready to be planted on Earth Day, marking the start of this collaboration.

Location: Spaans Lagoen

These 28 mangroves were planted in the protected area of Spaans Lagoen, in locations identified as suitable for the species and currently being restored as part of the European Union-funded RESEMBID program project, "Turning the Tide."

The planted mangroves will be monitored in the coming months for growth and survival. It's important to note that restoring mangroves doesn't just mean planting new ones. Under the "Turning the Tide" pilot project, analysis showed that environmental conditions – like water flow – also need to be restored. At Spaans Lagoen, canals are currently being restored to allow the mangroves in the area to grow healthily. The ultimate goal is for the ecosystem to one day restore itself naturally, without the need to plant new mangroves.

What can individuals do to help the health of Aruba's mangrove forests?

Globally, mangroves are under threat, and in Aruba, almost 90% of the island's mangroves have disap-

peared in the past decade. Since 2017, all mangrove species in Aruba are protected by law (AB 2017 no. 48) and also internationally under the SPAW Protocol Annex III.

It is crucial for the community to understand the vital role mangroves play as habitats for small animals like crabs and juvenile fish, and as areas where fish and shrimp feed. They also provide nesting grounds for birds and other animals. Mangrove roots are essential breeding areas for creatures like crabs and oysters, and in turn, they support millions of people. Mangroves also filter runoff water from land before it enters the ocean, preventing sea grass and coral reefs from being smothered by sediment. Finally, mangroves provide coastal protection during storms.

It's important to respect mangrove forests. Do not cut or remove mangroves, and do not throw trash into them. Keep a respectful distance and allow mangroves space to fulfill their essential role in nature.

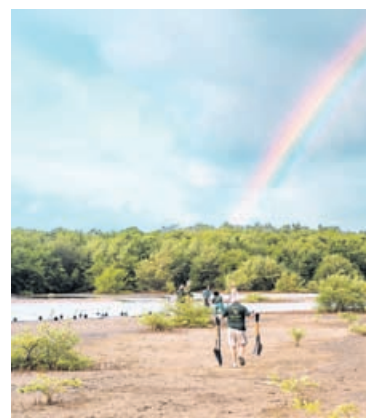
ACF and BlyP's Commitment

ACF and BlyP remain committed to restoring Aruba's nature with native trees to support biodiversity and climate resilience. With the planting of these young mangroves on Earth Day, they hope to learn how to plant more in the future to enhance natural restoration.

To get to know the mangrove species better, you can visit the ACF greenhouse located at San Fuego 70, or the Ban Lanta y Planta nursery in Paraguaná, Noord.



For more information, you can contact Aruba Conservation Foundation at info@acf.aw, visit their social media pages on Facebook or Instagram, or contact Ban Lanta y Planta at banlantayplanta@gmail.com. □





Fred de Jong presents the Aruba Frank Sinatra Show live at The Cinemas

(Oranjestad)—Take advantage of your chance to lounge back and delight in the memorable melodies of one of the greatest entertainers of all time, Frank Sinatra. Join fellow Sinatra fans

for a charming evening of music and entertainment LIVE at The Cinemas!

Presented by tribute artist Fred de Jong, enjoy



his beautiful rendition of some of Sinatra's best hits, including fan favorites from the legend like "Fly Me To The Moon", "My Way", "New York – New York" and more! Sing along to some of Sinatra's rendition of classic Christmas songs and take in the experience in The Cinemas VIP lounging theater for only \$40 per person.

De Jong invites you to be a part of a classy, beautiful evening of jazzy swing classics each Thursday from 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM at The Cinemas in Paseo Herencia. Seating is limited.

Book your seat now at arubasinatra.com/book. Food and drink not included. ☐

Monuments in Oranjestad: Town House and Cas Veneranda

(Oranjestad)—If you've ever taken a stroll through main street Oranjestad, you may have stumbled upon a big green house with beautiful colonial design. This legendary house, now used as a town hall for civil marriages, was once owned by a wealthy doctor and formed part of the elite neighborhood in Oranjestad.

Jacobo Eloy Arends was an Aruban physician, and in lived in Oranjestad during the 1920s. In 1922, he



married Maria Monica Lacle, the daughter of well-known business man at the time, Adriaan Lacle. The two lived a posh life in the city center, and their mansion—once the center for neighborhood parties—now serves as a public town hall for civil marriages and is a cultural monument on the island.

The house was designed by architect Chibi Wever, and constructed under the leadership of famous master carpenter, Dada Picus, who was famous at the time for his construction of beautiful buildings.

The construction of the house started once Jacobo and Maria got engaged. It is said that during the time of construction, Maria was not allowed to see the building nor be anywhere near the construction site. It wasn't until after her honeymoon that she saw the completed mansion for the first time, furnished entirely by her sisters-in-law.

The mansion also contained the doctor's office, as well as a pharmacy. After the death of Jacobo, the house was inherited by his son, an Aruban dentist, who converted Jacobo's office into his own dental practice. Over the years, the house was rented and used by third parties, but eventually fell into disrepair, as the maintenance cost became too high to cover.

The land was sold to Land Aruba in 1986, but it did not see a renovation until 1997. Nowadays, it serves to host weddings, and is attached to a modern building situated behind—the Aruban census office.

Jacobo and Maria's mansion was situated in front of another famous mansion, owned by Jacobo's brother Frederico Maximiliaan (Machi) Arends. Frederico was married to Veneranda (whom the mansion was named after). Their house was



also constructed by Dada Picus, utilizing Veneranda's design vision that was inspired by a house she saw in Cartagena, Colombia.

Nowadays, this mansion lies in ruins. However, the Aruban government announced its official restoration last year, with ongoing to convert this monument into a governmental office and public space for visitors of Oranjestad. ☐

Source and pictures credited to: "De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over the geschiedenis van Aruba)" by Evert Bongers.

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The legend of the Kibrahacha tree

(Oranjestad)—As the climate begins to dry up here, the Kibrahacha is ready to bloom. Known locally for its bright, yellow flowers, this special tree only blooms for three to four days only. Scientifically known as *Tabebuia billbergii*, and in English as the Yellow Poui, this tree is native to the Caribbean islands of Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao, and is considered among locals as one of the most spectacular trees on the island. But did you also know that the beautiful yellow flowers have a story behind them?

The Kibrahacha is said to have extremely hard wood—so hard that it can break an axe. In fact, that's what its name means in Papiamentu: "kibra" (break) "hacha" (axe). The flowers bloom around April and May, but this only last for about three to four days, as the flowers start to fall off and the tree starts growing its green leaves. The Kibrahacha is especially particular, as it's the only one among its neighboring trees to start blooming first.

The legend of the Kibrahacha

Written by Hubert (Lio Booi)

One day Aterima, who lived west of the hill Sero Warawara, woke up one day to find her father sleeping in his hammock, suffering a bout of terrible fever. Her mother was very worried, and as was the custom in the olden days, asked Aterima to go fetch Kudaweche, who was an epistemophile, to come see his father.

Aterima wasted time and went to go fetch Kudaweche. Upon telling Kudaweche that her father was sick, he immediately accompanied Aterima back to her hut, where he encountered her father in a bad state. Not willing to waste any time, he told Aterima that the only thing that can cure her father is a home-made potion made out of the Kibrahacha flower. At the time the Kibrahacha was not yet in her blooming season, but the stubborn Kudaweche was determined to bring back Aterima's father back to health, and so off they went to the nearest Kibrahacha tree.

When they arrived at the tree,



they saw that it was covered head to toe in thorns, with only a few closed flowers at the very top. Kudaweche, experienced veteran in all things Aruban flora and fauna, told Aterima to start plucking the thorns of the tree to climb to the top where the flowers are. Aterima, just as determined to save her father, didn't hesitate to start.

To her surprise, every time she plucked a thorn of the tree, a bright, yellow flower bloomed in its place. The thorns were hard to pluck out, but Aterima continued plucking with enthusiasm and wonder at the unfolding sight before her. Not too long after she was able to fill her entire satchel with the yellow flowers. Kudaweche, satisfied to see Aterima so happy

and encouraged to help her father, took her back to her hut.

Upon arriving back at the hut, Aterima's mother quickly made a tea out of the flowers and gave it to her sick husband. Miraculously, after just one sip of the tea, the father's fever left his body immediately, and he opened eyes and sprung up feeling new.

The next morning, they all visited the same Kibrahacha tree that saved the life of Aterima's father and they saw another miracle. The tree was covered again in the same bright, yellow flowers, with not a thorn in sight. And as the legend goes, from that day on, the Kibrahacha tree no longer produced any more thorns. □

Planning on snorkeling? Get to know our Candelchi!

(Oranjestad)—If you're ever planning on snorkeling during your vacation on Aruba, you may spot fish that you can't recognize. One of these may be the "Candelchi" (Squirrelfish), a common, yet shy



fish that swims all year long in the waters of Aruba.

Let's talk about the names of fish. Do you know your fish? The Department of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries, known as Santa Rosa, offers this informative article that illustrate some fish and their names in Papiamentu.

Candelchi, Squirrelfish, *Holocentrus adscensionis*:

Candelchi actually refers to the entire squirrelfish family or, as some say, when we say

candelchi, we mean several different species but without distinguishing them by species. In this picture, we are showing the most common one in our waters, which is called squirrelfish in English or scientifically known as *Holocentrus adscensionis*.

Under candelchi, we in Aruba generally refer to all the different species of squirrelfish. They all look alike and it's really difficult to distinguish between them.

The squirrelfish family is dis-

tinguished by the following characteristics. They are heart-shaped with pink or red hues and often show heart-shaped streaks between the scales along the body. They have hard fins and are always armed. Over at our sister island Curaçao, they are called "bari di clabo" (nail barrel) for that reason.

In our waters, there are 7 to 8 types or species present and they are sometimes caught and seen occasionally. They can be distinguished by different marks such as color on

the dorsal spine or marks on the body.

In Aruba:

Candelchi are found on reefs or areas with structure in the water where they can hide. Although they prefer to hunt for food at night, they are also active during the day. They are edible and delicious when prepared dry and crispy with lime. It is particularly challenging to scale the fish, which is why it is not one of the favorites among fishermen. They often live in groups. □



Article by Etnia Nativa

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A Journey Through Aruba's Soul

Episode CCC - 300

ORANJESTAD, ARUBA – In a world saturated with fleeting content and digital noise, one native voice has steadily carved a space for depth, authenticity, and cultural pride. This week, Etnia Nativa proudly celebrates the publication of its 300th cultural episode, a weekly chronicle that brings the heartbeat of Aruba's native heritage to life through social media and this speciallocal newspaper.

More than just a cultural portal, Etnia Nativa has become a beacon of identity, storytelling, and introspection for both locals and travelers. Founded and curated by a passionate cultural guardian, Etnia Nativa shares not only knowledge, but wisdom — every post unveiling pieces of Aruba's indigenous roots, colonial legacy, natural wonders, and the mystical energy that pulses through our islandscapes.

"Our narratives have long emphasized the vital balance needed in all that we do—especially on a small island like ours," its creator shares. "For generations, we have thrived in a laid-back colonial existence, shaped by the heat of the sun and fused into a unique blend of cultures."

But today, those narratives are also calls to action.

Weak promises and a lack of action in protecting our cultural heritage have opened the door to growing threats—most notably, a mounting crisis in biodiversity. Lack of government planning has led to over-tourism, reaching critical levels. Over-migration, increasing refugee populations, traffic congestion, and over-consumption are straining Aruba's limited resources. Overflowing classrooms, garbage bins, landfills, and open-air dumps stand as daily reminders of this growing imbalance.

However through this platform we continue opening eyes and conscious, dedicated to preserving and re-discovering native values and traditions, while shar-



Unveiling Our Roots: Exploring Cultural Heritage



ing the true spirit of what it means to be Aruban in our age—reflecting upon our history, culture, and identity."

What makes Etnia Nativa so unique is its dual essence: it's both a digital cultural chronicle and a physical sanctuary. Nestled quietly away from the usual tourist trails, its native venue welcomes visitors with a genuine interest in Aruba's origins and beyond. Here, guests aren't just observers — they're participants in an immersive journey that delves into the island's sacred traditions, art, folklore, and environmental wisdom. No tour buses, no polished scripts — just raw, authentic heritage shared from out the heart.

As Aruba navigates the tides of modernization and mass tourism, Etnia Nativa serves as an anchor — grounding the island in its true identity and reminding its people of their enduring legacy.

With 300 stories already shared, and countless more waiting to be told, Etnia Nativa is not slowing down. Its mission remains clear: to preserve, celebrate, and pass on Aruba's native soul — one story at a time. □

If you enjoyed reading our stories and are interested in learning more about the true Aruban identity, we recommend you not wait until the last days of your stay to book a visit to Etnia Nativa — the only "living museum" of its kind in the Caribbean. Fascinate yourself with this trend-setting experience. We've been here since 1994 — co-founders of Aruba National Park, the Archaeological Museum Aruba, and board members of multiple artisan foundations. Etnia Nativa shares value, knowledge, and connects you to the ancient island's spiritual soul. WhatsApp+297 592 2702 etnianativa03@gmail.com



Fruit Loose & Veggie Boost: Aruban fruits and vegetables

Fresh fruits make a tropical holiday's picture complete. Whether you see the mangoes hanging in the trees or the fresh fruit cocktail on the side table of your pool bed, the link is there: you are in the tropics. Aruba grows her own fruits and veggies and there are some pretty out-of-space local species you may never had heard of, but really healthy and delicious.

Mispel

This is a fruit with a character (5-10 cm/2-4 inches). It does not ripe until it is picked or falls off the tree. Mispel is hard with a sandpaper like texture when immature, soft and juicy when ripe. It's technically a berry, but contains a skin similar to that of a kiwi. It's grainy and sweet, with a light, musky flavor. The sap or gum from the tree is also a source of 'chicle' the original ingredient used to make chewing gum. Rich in tannins, antioxidants shown to contain anti-inflammatory compounds, and vitamin C, essential for healthy immune function. Season: year- round.

Kenepa



Ovoid green fruit that grows in bunches on trees up to 30m high. The fruit is related to the lychee and have tight, thin but rigid skins. Inside the skin is the tart, tangy, or sweet pulp of the fruit covering a large seed. The pulp is usually cream or orange colored. Kenepa strengthens the immune system, and prevents the reproduction of bacteria and viruses in the body. This fruit is highly recommended to treat lung infections and urinary tract infections. It also helps to cure insomnia and rejuvenates the nervous system. Season: the fruit typically ripen during the summer.

Druif



There is no chance you did not bump into one of the sea grape trees while spending your vacation on Aruba. The sea grape plant is often used in ocean-side landscaping in sandy soil right on the beach and it produces clusters of

fruit that resemble grapes. Are sea grapes edible? Yes, they are. Animals enjoy sea grapes and humans can eat them as well, and they are used to make jam. They contain very low calories and sugar, enabling good bacterium to digest food and excrete waste quickly which is effective in preventing constipation. Season: Sep-Oct.

Shimarucu



Maybe Aruba's most popular wild fruit tree. You may have noticed cars at the side of the road and people picking those red berries. Well, that's Shimarucu. The local habit to stop for these delicious fruits goes from generation to generation. Its fruit's degree of sour depends on the amount of rain it gets. Red Shimarucus tend to taste better than orange. The fruit has super power: a true vitamin bomb. Adults only need to eat 3-4 of these berries to meet their daily recommended amount of Vitamin C. Season: Rainy months (Oct-Jan).

Tamarind



A delicious, sweet fruit that has a wide variety of uses and applications, both for medicinal and culinary purposes. It is a medium-sized bushy tree with evergreen leaves and fruit that develops in pods characterized by long, brown shells. Inside is a sticky, fleshy, juicy pulp, which is the Tamarind fruit. Both sweet and sour in taste, the fruit contains a significant level of vitamin C, as well as vitamin E, B vitamins, calcium, iron, phosphorous, potassium, manganese, and dietary fiber. There are also a number of organic compounds that make tamarind a powerful antioxidant and anti-inflammatory agent. Season: March.

When it comes to veggies the island certainly offers a home-grown selection. They taste delicious and have their specific talents to boost your immune system. Start the day with a 'batida' (smoothie) enriched with a local veggie touch or select your restaurant that offers local vegetable dishes to get the real pure taste of it.

Comcomber chiquito

This is a sort of local squash, but looks like a cucumber with prickly skin. The taste however is bitterer than the cucumber and the vegetable is smaller in size but bigger in width. Inside is a soft, fleshy pulp and seeds, just like the cucumber. Comcomber chiquito is grown in the island and used in salads and 'stoba' (stew) or on its own in vinegar. The veggie contains multiple B vitamins, including vitamin B1, vitamin B5, and vitamin B7 (biotin). B vitamins are known to help ease feelings of anxiety and buffer some of the damaging effects of stress. Additionally this veggie is rich in two of the most basic elements needed for healthy digestion: water and fiber. Season: year- round.

Yambo

Family of Okra, also known as 'lady's fingers': a green flowering plant. Okra belongs to the same plant family as hibiscus and cotton. A classic favorite dish in Aruba is Sopi di yambo. It has long been favored as a food for the health-conscious. It contains potassium, vitamin B, vitamin C, folic acid, and calcium. It's low in calories and has a high dietary fiber content. Recently, a new benefit of including okra in your diet is being considered. Okra has been suggested to help manage blood sugar in cases of type 1, type 2, and gestational diabetes. Season: year-round.

Bonch'i Cunucu

A long, small bean, boiled for a side dish or snack. Long beans have a chewy, crunchy texture—more so than snap beans—and a flavor reminiscent of the dry navy bean or asparagus. Besides stir-fry, soups and salads, the long bean is a good choice for stewing, braising (to remain chewy and firm), sautéing, shallow frying, and deep frying. With cooking, the long bean's bean flavor intensifies. Long beans are low in calories, about 45 calories per cup, and rich in vitamin A and also contain vitamin C and potassium. Season: year-round.

Pampuna



In the endless summer of Caribbean living we only have to concern ourselves with a wet season and a dry season. Still we do indulge heavily in the pleasures of pumpkin and enjoy Caribbean pumpkin recipes year round. A popular dish in Aruban restaurants is Sopa Di Pampuna, don't miss it. This dish is made of pumpkin soup, and parsley. Pumpkins are rich in flavonoid polyphenolic antioxidants such as xanthin, lutein and carotenes and also contain vitamins. Pumpkin seeds are a good source of omega-3 fatty acids, vitamins, minerals and proteins. Pumpkins are used to make desserts, breads and soups. □

CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

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14 Marina
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15 Provinces
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32 Tatter
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AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

4-22 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

XLPI Y LDPE XLDH Y'K MDYHN
UDCCDR PI YA VDFVCD
QPEYHN EDPCCU CFZRCU
PI KD. — CDACYD THFVD,
"VPETA PHR EDQEDPIYFH"

Cryptoquote: IF WE CHOOSE,
WE CAN LIVE IN A WORLD OF COMFORTING
ILLUSION. — NOAM CHOMSKY

Cruise ship Schedule: April 22 - 30 2025

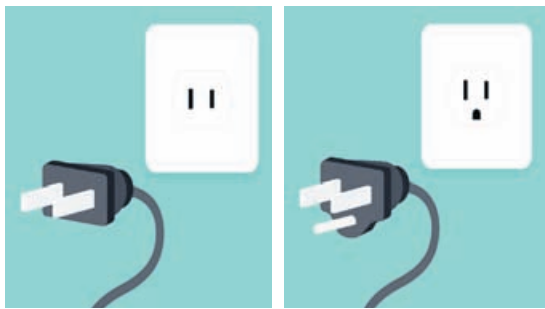
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TUE	22	CARNIVAL VISTA	13.00	23.00	C	1
		OASIS OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	I	1
WED	23	FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
THU	24	NORWEGIAN GEM	08.00	20.00	C	1
FRI	25	NORWEGIAN GETAWAY	11.00	21.00	C	1
SUN	27	GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS	11.59	23.00	C	1
		FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-
TUE	29	CARNIVAL HORIZON	08.00	22.00	B	1
		CELEBRITY REFLECTION	08.00	23.00	C	1
WED	30	FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.



Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.



Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.



Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.



Where do whale sharks mate? The search to learn where the magic happens for the world's biggest fish



In this image from video, whale sharks swim near each other off the coast of St. Helena in the South Atlantic Ocean on Feb. 25, 2025.

Associated Press

By MARIA CHENG
Associated Press

JAMESTOWN, St. Helena (AP) — Whale sharks shouldn't be hard for scientists to find. They are enormous — they are the biggest fish in the sea and perhaps the biggest fish to have ever lived. They are found in warm oceans all around the world. By shark standards, they are slow swimmers.

But they somehow manage to also be very private: Scientists don't know where they mate, and they've never observed it before.

They do finally have some clues, though. Scientists suspect the magic may be happening in the waters around St. Helena, a remote volcanic island in

the South Atlantic Ocean where Napoleon Bonaparte was once exiled and died. It's the only place in the world where adult male and female whale sharks are known to regularly gather in roughly equal numbers and food doesn't seem to be the main attraction.

Kenickie Andrews, the marine conservation project manager at the St. Helena Trust says he's seen male sharks chasing females, nibbling on their pectoral fins and "displaying themselves" to the female sharks, akin to mating rituals observed in other sharks including great whites.

"What we've seen here is classic shark courtship behavior," he said. "To this day we haven't seen suc-

cessful copulation, but it is proof (whale sharks) are in our waters trying out these behaviors."

Whale sharks typically measure from 12 to 18 meters (39 to 59 feet), weigh up to 14 tons and are plankton eaters; all sharks have a unique pattern of white spots on their upper side.

Scientists say they need to know where the sharks are mating and giving birth so they can protect those areas, possibly by creating marine reserves where threats like fishing are banned. Whale sharks are designated as endangered by the International Union for Conservation

of Nature; the group says their population has been "largely depleted."

Simon Pierce, who has studied whale sharks globally, said he has photographed suspected mating scars on female sharks in St. Helena, probably from when male sharks bit their pectoral fins to hold onto them and get into mating position. □

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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

Book Review: Nancy Kwan tells the behind-the-scenes story of playing a Hollywood stereotype

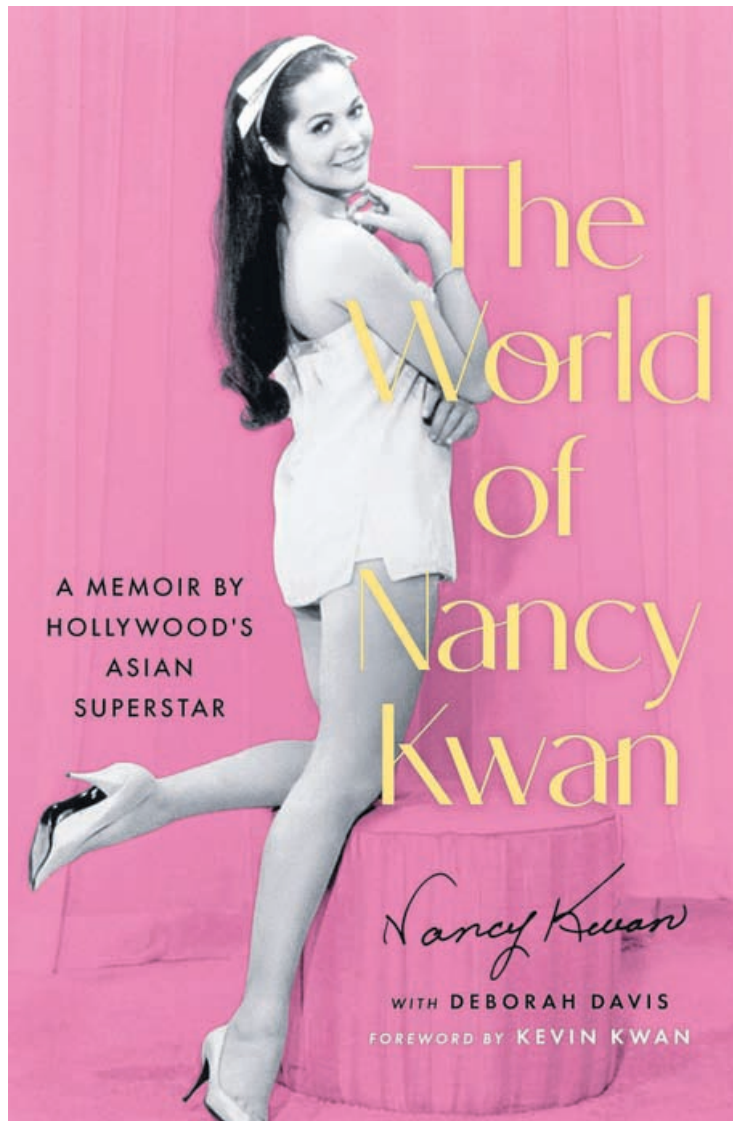
By **YURI KAGEYAMA**
Associated Press

Demure, submissive and erotic, Suzie Wong is that bigger-than-life stereotype, that caricature Asian women grew up with in the U.S. We may have also secretly hoped to play that geisha-like image to win our way out of our oppression. But over the years, some of us grew to resent it, fight it and reject it, hoping to claim our true identity and dignity as a person.

In "The World of Nancy Kwan," a memoir by the pioneering Hollywood star, we hear from the real-life woman who played Suzie Wong.

We learn an Asian actor getting to play an Asian role was a victory back in those days, as the roles were taken by white actors wearing strange slant-eyed makeup.

Kwan was born in Hong Kong in 1939. Her father was Chinese, an architect with a love for movies. Her mother was English, a model and actor, although she left when Kwan was young, and she was raised by a stepmother. It was hard because being Eurasian was



This book cover image released by Legacy Lit shows "The World of Nancy Kwan" by Nancy Kwan with Deborah Davis.

Associated Press

an anomaly, she recalls. "I've broken barriers, celebrated achievements, overcome disappoint-

ments and survived tragedies, all part of my remarkable journey from Hong Kong to Hollywood and beyond. This is my story," she writes in the prologue.

Her book is speckled with the big names of that era, Pat Boone, Katharine Hepburn, Dick Van Dyke. Some passages read like a gossip column, such as her accounts of her friendship with Bruce Lee.

But she also depicts the racial barriers of that period. All women, especially in Hollywood, were trying to be beautiful and desirable. In fact, being dubbed "the Asian Bardot," referring to Brigitte Bardot, was a genuine compliment.

She talks about how Jack Soo, a Japanese American who portrays a nightclub owner in "Flower Drum Song," was incarcerated with other Japanese Americans in internment camps during World War II.

Kwan believes her story is about hard work and advancement despite racism, not succumbing to it.

After all, Asian actors' roles used to be limited to "Fu Manchu villains, hypersexualized Dragon Ladies

and comic buffoons" and "shopkeepers, maids and houseboys," according to Kwan.

And so getting featured on the cover of Life magazine, wearing a body-hugging cheongsam, counted as a victory.

Another big win is when Ross Hunter, a hot producer, rushes over to her at a Hollywood party and casts her in "Flower Drum Song."

The musical film shattered stereotypes, she says, by focusing on fashionably dressed, wealthy Asians. Regardless of race, people cherish family, suffer heartbreak, laugh, sing, dance and dream of happiness, she writes.

Kwan calls the work "joyous entertainment with the universal message that whatever our race, we're all alike." Even those who may find that message lacking in addressing the meaning of diversity and Asian American pride will acknowledge there is a lot to learn from Kwan's history.

She is simply trying to land roles, hopefully good ones that showcase her talent in works by respected directors. □

Music Review: Willie Nelson is ageless singing Rodney Crowell songs on 'Oh What A Beautiful World'

By **STEVEN WINE**
Associated Press

It's fun to hear Willie Nelson sing such words as "ninja," "fishmonger" and "absinthe," which are among the many pleasures found in the songbook of influential country songwriter Rodney Crowell.

"Oh What A Beautiful World" is Nelson's latest album devoted to the songs of a specific songwriter, and in Crowell, he's interpreting a kindred spirit. While Crowell has a slightly different lyric vocabulary, both are Texans with a deep love of Hank Williams.

The pairing great songs and a great singer works beautifully. The album will



This album cover image released by Sony shows "Oh What A Beautiful World" by Willie Nelson.

Associated Press

be out Friday, just before Nelson's 92nd birthday on April 29.

He has long sounded ageless, but more than ever, Nelson sings like a sage. His reedy tenor can be a little whispery, but he displays surprising vocal range. His relaxed, conversational delivery is filled with warmth and wisdom. He'll start a phrase late, end it early and make it seem perfect.

When he reminisces about childhood on "Banks of the Old Bandera" originally recorded by Jerry Jeff Walker Nelson sounds just like he did in 1976, the year the song was written. Other material ranges from "Shame on the Moon," a

1982 pop hit for Bob Seger, to Crowell's overlooked gem "She's Back in Town." Also included are tunes that have been recorded by Tim McGraw ("Open Season On My Heart") and Keith Urban ("Making Memories of Us") and a folksy ballad co-written with Guy Clark ("Stuff That Works").

Longtime Nelson collaborator Buddy Cannon produced the record, and the backing musicians provide graceful, tasteful support. Nelson's beloved guitar Trigger plays a significant role, including on a careening, don't-try-this-at-home solo on the title cut, a duet with Crowell. □

Brock Purdy reports to 49ers and George Kittle stays away from offseason program

By JOSH DUBOW

AP Pro Football Writer

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP) —

Brock Purdy reported to the start of the offseason program for the San Francisco 49ers on Tuesday, while star tight end George Kittle stayed away from the start of the voluntary program.

Purdy and Kittle are both entering the final years of their contracts and are seeking extensions, leading to speculation about whether they would report for the offseason program.

The Niners have had off-season contract disputes last deep into the summer the past three seasons.

Deebo Samuel missed the first few training camp practices in 2022 before signing an extension, while Nick Bosa didn't get his deal done in 2023 until just days before the season opener and Brandon Aiyuk missed all of training camp practice last summer waiting for a new deal.

Purdy said at the end of the season in January that he hoped to have a new



San Francisco 49ers quarterback Brock Purdy (13) aims a pass during the second half of an NFL football game against the Miami Dolphins, Sunday, Dec. 22, 2024, in Miami Gardens, Fla.

Associated Press

deal done before the start of the offseason program. That hasn't happened yet but he chose not to hold out as he tries to help the Niners rebound from a 6-11 season.

"That's Brock," general manager John Lynch said.

"He's a pro. Brock's very clear-minded and not going to let other people influence what he should be doing. ... We're looking forward to having him as our quarterback for a long time."

Purdy has made less than

\$1 million a year for his first three seasons and is set to get a small raise in 2025 to about \$5.2 million under the league's proven performance escalator for making the Pro Bowl last season.

But Purdy's play has far ex-

ceeded that salary and he is eligible this offseason to negotiate an extension for the first time and could be in line for a contract that will pay him in excess of \$50 million a year.

The two sides have been talking for much of the off-season and Lynch remains optimistic a deal will get done.

"I think there's been some talks that have this thing going in a good direction and I'll leave it at that," he said.

After finishing fourth in MVP voting in his first full season as a starter in 2023, Purdy was far less productive last season as injuries to several key playmakers had a major impact on the Niners offense.

Purdy's passer rating dropped nearly 17 points to 96.1, he had only 20 TD passes and 12 interceptions on the season, and also came up short in several late-game scenarios when the 49ers had a chance for a comeback win. □

NCAA passes series of rules that sets table for schools to pay players directly

By EDDIE PELLIS

AP National Writer

The NCAA passed rules Monday that would upend decades of precedent by allowing colleges to pay their athletes per terms of a multibillion-dollar lawsuit settlement expected to go into effect this summer.

The nine proposals passed by the NCAA board were largely expected but still mark a defining day in the history of college sports. An athlete's ability to be paid directly by his or her university is on track to be enshrined in a rulebook that has forbidden that kind of relationship for decades.

For the NCAA rules to officially go into effect, the changes prescribed by the House settlement still have to be granted final approval by a federal judge, whose hearing earlier this month led to questions

about potential tweaks before the new guidelines are supposed to go into play on July 1.

The changes will eliminate around 150 rules and alter many others in the NCAA's sprawling rulebook. They essentially codify measures set up by the settlement, including:

Modifying bylaws to allow schools to pay the athletes directly.

Eliminating scholarship limits for teams, while also setting roster limits that are designed to replace the scholarship caps. Some details of the roster limits, which were a key sticking point in the April 7 hearing, will be finalized later.

Establishing annual reporting requirements for schools that pay athletes; a payment pool is set to be approximately \$20.5 million for the biggest schools

beginning next academic year.

Setting up a clearinghouse for all name, image and likeness (NIL) deals that come from third parties and are worth \$600 or more.

Granting authority to an enforcement body being developed by the conferences named as defendants in the lawsuit to enforce the new rules passed to implement terms of the settlement. This includes compliance with all the new facets coming into play in college sports roster limits, payment of direct benefits to players and meeting requirements for the third-party deals.

One change allows for the creation of technology platforms for schools to monitor payments to athletes and for the athletes to report their third-party

NIL deals.

The board also approved a requirement for athletes to be enrolled full-time and meeting requirements toward their degree to receive the benefits.

The board received updates from a working

group designed to propose ways to streamline NCAA governance — a topic that has come up as the bigger conferences have sought more decision-making power in some areas. □



The NCAA logo is displayed at center court at The Consol Energy Center in Pittsburgh, March 18, 2015.

Associated Press

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GO-KART RENTALS



Korir brothers hope a Kenyan school they fund will produce a Boston Marathon champion, like them

By **JIMMY GOLEN**
AP Sports Writer

BOSTON (AP) — John Korir arrived in Hopkinton hoping to join his brother as a Boston Marathon champion. He left Boylston Street with plans to train a future winner.

Korir said he will donate the prize money from his Boston victory to the Transcend Talent Academy, which provides an education for aspiring runners who can't afford one. He has worked with the school in Kenya along with his brother, Wesley, who used the proceeds from his 2012 Boston win to build a hospital in their home region.

"It was in our dream to come here and win, and make history of two brothers winning Boston," Korir said Tuesday, a day after overcoming an early fall to become, with Wesley, the first members of the same family to win the world's oldest and most prestigious annual marathon. "One day, one time we'll have a child from Transend Academy win Boston," John Korir said. "That's now our



Boston Marathon winner John Korir, of Kenya, kisses the trophy while celebrating after the race, Monday, April 21, 2025, in Boston.

Associated Press

next dream: to mentor, to bring up a champion who will come one day, come and win Boston."

The reigning Chicago Marathon champion, who had top 10 finishes in both of his previous Boston attempts,

Korir broke away from the pack heading into Heartbreak Hill on Monday and ran alone for much of the last 6 miles to win in 2 hours, 4 minutes, 45 seconds the second-fastest winning time in course history.

Fellow Kenyan Sharon Lokedi also took advantage of near-perfect marathon weather to win in 2:17:22 more than 2 1/2 minutes faster than the previous course record. Korir said he, too, might have challenged for the course

record if he'd had another runner to push him.

"But because I was alone, had to try my best and see how fast I could run," he said. Korir ran more than 26.19 miles with a scraped up knee and hand after getting tripped in the crowded start on East Main Street in Hopkinton, sending him sprawling headfirst down the double yellow line in the middle of the road. His race bib was messed up even worse.

Korir quickly popped back up and saw his bib was torn off his shirt in three of its four corners; he detached the last one, folded the bib and tucked it into his shorts as he rejoined the still bunched-up leaders at the rear.

The absence of a bib the professionals' have their names, not numbers like most of the 30,000 runners in the field was mostly a curiosity for onlookers. But it posed a potential problem for race organizers: On the back is a timing device that registers when the runner crosses a checkpoint. □

Celtics star Jayson Tatum listed as doubtful for Game 2 vs. Magic with bone bruise in wrist



Boston Celtics' Jayson Tatum (0), right, reacts beside Derrick White after falling on a flagrant foul by Orlando Magic's Kentavious Caldwell-Pope during the second half in Game 1 of a first-round NBA playoff basketball series Sunday, April 20, 2025, in Boston.

Associated Press

By **KYLE HIGHTOWER**
AP Sports Writer

BOSTON (AP) — Celtics forward Jayson Tatum has been listed as doubtful with a bone bruise in his right wrist for Game 2 of Boston's Eastern Conference first-round series against the Orlando Magic on Wednesday.

Tatum's designation was listed on the injury report released Tuesday. He injured the wrist in the fourth quarter of the Celtics' 103-86 victory on Sunday.

With Boston leading 89-73 with 8:28 remaining, Tatum went up for a dunk and was hit hard by Kentavious Caldwell-Pope as he tried to block it. Tatum landed awkwardly on his right side.

He stayed down briefly before eventually rising to his feet, clenching his right hand.

After a video review by referees, Caldwell-Pope's foul was upgraded to a flagrant foul.

Tatum subsequently missed the two ensuing free throws but remained in the game. He finished with 17 points, but was 8-of-22 from the field in 40 minutes of action.

Tatum said a postgame X-ray came back clean.

Asked about Tatum's status after the Celtics practiced Tuesday morning, coach Joe Mazzulla said the All-Star was limited, and day-to-day.

"He was able to do some stuff," Mazzulla said. "He was sore after the game, has gotten a little bit better today.

He was able to go through some on-court work and we'll go from there." □